



Tractor-mounted groomer uses hardened tines to “fluff up” bedding material and level it. An adjustable guide makes it easy for operator to follow the curb.



Push-up blade pushes feed back to where cattle can easily reach it. Groomer and push-up blade can be mounted on a single tractor to do double duty.

Groomer/Blade Combo Keeps Cows Comfortable, Productive

The tractor-mounted groomer and feed push-up blade from Hatfield Mfg. can be mounted individually, or both can be mounted to a single tractor to do double duty. Both are designed to meet the needs of dairy herds from 200 to 500 in size or greater.

“The groomer addresses a primary concern for dairymen, which is cow comfort,” explains Jason Hatfield, Hatfield Mfg. “Keeping the stalls groomed also reduces somatic cell count and extends the life of bedding material.”

As cows lay down, they naturally drag bedding material back, eventually digging a hole in front of the stall. If the material is

kept soft and level, cows don’t get hung up, and they stay more comfortable.

The hardened groomer tines comb the bedding material to fluff and level it. An adjustable guide makes it easy for the operator to follow the curb while the scraper clears away manure from the curb. The tines and guide are replaceable.

The push-up blade is designed to push feed so the cattle can easily reach it. It reduces waste and ensures access to the feed. Each blade comes with a 2 by 12-in. replacement blade edge.

“We use ultra high molecular weight (UHMW) plastic blade edges,” says Hatfield.

“They don’t tear up the concrete or asphalt, and any piece that does wear off is not harmful to cows, unlike metal blades.”

Depending on the tractor, the blade is automatically in float position. When lowered, it follows contours and avoids excessive down pressure that can wear away the blade edge.

Hatfield sells the push-up blade and groomer separately. A push-up blade is priced at \$3,800, while the groomer is priced at \$6,800. Both are designed for heavy-duty use with a powder coat finish. Push-up blades are designed for mounting to either side of a tractor, allowing dual blades on the same

tractor.

“The groomer and push-up blade can be used on 15 to 20 different tractor brands worldwide,” says Hatfield. “We can supply tractors with the attachments installed, or just the attachments adapted specifically for the customer’s tractor.”

Hatfield recommends a minimum 30 hp. tractor for one attachment or 50 hp. if both are mounted to the same tractor.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hatfield Manufacturing, 1823 Shoestring Rd., Gooding, Idaho 83330 (ph 208 934-5182; toll free 800 359-8171; www.hatfieldmfg.com).



Bottom of cab door originally sealed against plates on either side of tilt cylinder. McLaen removed them and attached 2 rubber flaps to door. Photos show flaps with door closed (left) and open.

Quick Bobcat Fix Makes Entry/Exit Easier

Dale McLaen has a quick fix for older Bobcats that makes it easier to get in and out of the cab.

“I have an old 743 with a cab, and the bottom of the door seals against plates to either side of the tilt cylinder,” explains McLaen. “It seals tight, but those plates get in the way when you’re climbing in or getting out, especially when wearing winter boots.”

McLaen removed the plates and fabricated two, 1/4-in. thick, semi-flexible flaps from a piece of rubber matting to match the gaps in the doorway.

“I spot welded 2 small pieces of 1/2-in.

angle iron to the bottom of the door,” says McLaen. “Then I attached the vertical flaps across the width of the door with 1/4-in. pop rivets. They fit nicely and seal the openings when I close the door.”

He found another benefit to the door flaps after installing them. “Removing the steel plates also makes it easier to clean out the dirt and residue that builds up around the foot control pedals,” says McLaen.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale McLaen, McLaen’s Service, 13756 Hwy. 11, Rutland, N. Dak. 58067 (ph 701 724-6232; mclaen@drtel.net).

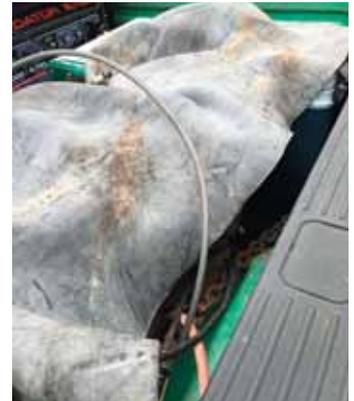
Heavy Tarp Made From Tractor Tire Inner Tube

“I recently bought a new inner tube for one of the rear tires on my tractor. Unfortunately, the tube turned out to be defective. Our local tire shop wouldn’t replace it, so I converted it into a heavy duty ‘poor man’s’ tarp. It’s waterproof and doesn’t blow in the wind like a conventional tarp does,” says Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.

He recently sent FARM SHOW photos of the tarp protecting some cargo he hauled in his pickup while making a trip to Indiana. He placed a couple of chains and heavy cables on the tarp to hold it down.

“It’s waterproof and doesn’t fly all over like most tarps do,” says Swensen.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gary Swensen, 1408 Sunrise Drive, Yankton, S. Dak. 57078 (ph 605 660-3489; g_swensen@msn.com).



Tractor tire inner tube makes a heavy waterproof tarp that doesn’t blow in the wind.

Car Tire Salt Block Feeder

You’ll like this nifty salt block feeder built by Donald Brubaker, Rocky Mount, Va., who uses the feeder to provide salt to his beef cattle. He says using a tire makes the feeder more durable than most feeders on the market.

To build it, he stuck a 14-in. long, 1/2-in. dia. pipe down into the center of the tire and filled the tire with concrete. He welded a 14-in. sq. steel plate on top of the pipe, then cut the bottom third off a 50-gal. plastic barrel and bolted the barrel onto the plate. He also drilled several small drain holes in the bottom of the barrel.

“It works good and is easy to move anywhere using a pallet fork,” says Brubaker. “It’s heavy enough that 3 to 5 cows can lick the block at a time without knocking it around.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Donald Brubaker, 1035 Carolina Springs Rd., Rocky Mount, Va. 24151 (ph 540 420-4343).



Pipe at the center of concrete-filled tire supports the bottom third of a 50-gal. plastic barrel. The result is a tough, low-cost salt block feeder.



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